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'*I AM WE*' along with '*WE THE PEOPLE*' are two statements that reveal best my understanding of the U.S.

This program has drastically changed my view of the United States of America, commonly perceived as one entity portrayed by the mainstream media. Obviously it cannot be further away from the actual reality.

It is not one single country that I experienced. Instead an agglomeration of 50 states united under the two statements mentioned above. Nevertheless, there is a sense of pride in being an American citizen; something we truly aspire for and need in Lebanon. A common feeling of belonging that emanates from the hard work of the '*People for the People*' providing a great sense of unity. Volunteer works are fundamental. Change can happen when people strive to alter policies from the bottom up and not the other way around!

FREEDOM is a sacred word in the United States of America; especially that of property, considered as "holy".

As a result, I was surprised with the regulations concerning a property's hidden archaeological heritage.

The government seems powerless when it comes to a heritage that is supposed to belong to the People and not only the owner. Therefore, and to my great surprise, I realized that the Lebanese laws of antiquities, dating back to 1933, were righteous by protecting to the upmost a country's heritage for its entire people.

The United States of America are encouraged to have more humane solutions with the guidelines concerning the property of the Indian artifacts with N.A.G.P.R.A. (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation). They must be adopted in order to emphasize the importance of a still existing 12000 year-old Indian culture reflecting the richness of this country which is not that young after all!!

The global tendency nowadays is focused towards the protection and promotion of micro cultures. World tourism is based on such interests, intangible heritage being inseparable from our common past.

The museums we visited are all equipped with highly advanced technological systems, adequately presenting all pertinent information of the past to both young and older visitors. The diversity of the interactive methods employed encourages the visitor to use all his senses. Consequently, as you leave the museum, you are filled with emotions that words written in panels cannot fulfill.

Since my return, my vision has changed both personally as well as professionally. The program was intense, incredibly rich and diverse. The most important element was that, although we were all from the same field of interest, we were coming from 17 different countries with very different backgrounds. Our interaction encouraged discussions, allowed us to understand and learn not only the American regulations and their way of life but also to share our own knowledge and experience. We are all linked in a way, as we ultimately share the same vision to protect our common heritage for the generations to come.

I am very thankful to have been chosen to participate in this enriching and motivating program. It has enlightened me on many topics I thought I knew. I feel I am more aware now of the world I live in. I hope that one day we will all get to share and live in a borderless world striving to make it a better place and a more understandable one for everybody.